

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As stated above, Applicants elect Group I, Claims 22-30, drawn to a method for producing a stamp or a printing plate by applying liquid and hardenable material in layers on a substrate wherein the application is carried out with print technology, and respectfully traverse the requirement for restriction for the following reasons:

It is believed that both the method claims (Group I) and the device claims (Group II) have a unitary connection in terms of problem and solution and are connected to each other in such a way that they realize a single general inventive idea. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the requirement of "unity" is fulfilled and all claims should be able to be prosecuted in a single application.

Moreover, it is believed that any search for the invention embodied in Group I would necessarily include a search of the invention embodied in Group II. Thus, the simultaneous search

for both Groups is believed not to constitute an unreasonable search for the Patent Examiner.

In addition, it is believed that the objectives of streamlined examination and compact prosecution would be promoted if a search were conducted simultaneously for both Groups. Also, the necessity of filing multiple patent applications in this case does not serve to promote the public interest because of the extra expense that is involved, in filing fees and examination costs, as well as the burden upon the public due to the necessity of searching through a multiplicity of patent files in order to find the complete range of subject matter claimed in several different patents that could otherwise be found in one issued patent only.

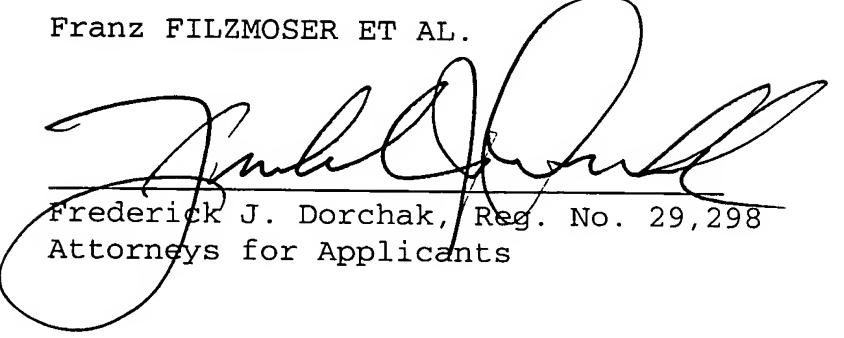
Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application for the non-elected invention.

For all these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 be withdrawn, and

that an action on the merits of all the claims be rendered.

Respectfully submitted,

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